(a) whether rare Tibetan gazelle and antelope in Ladakh are on the verge of extinction;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the black necked cranes are also migrating; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to preserve these rare species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Tibetan Gazelle and Tibetan antelope are amongst the most threatened species of wild animals in this country.

(b) The main reasons for decline in the population of these species are:

(i) Denudation and destruction of the habitat.

(ii) Poaching of the species for flesh and hide;

(c) The main breeding areas of Blacknecked Crane are in China. Ladakh falls only in the peripheral zone of the habitat range of this species. During recent surveys of the species only very few blacknecked cranes have been sighted in Chusul and Hanle areas of Ladakh. The Indian Population of the species is considered highly endangered.

(d) The steps taken and proposed to be taken to preserve the species include:

i) Providing total legal protection to the species under the Jammu & Kashmir wild Life (protection) Act.

ii) Taking cooperation of army to safeguard against the poaching of these species.

iii) Carrying out periodic status surveys and collecting imformation about sighting of species;

iv) Setting up of national parks and sanctuaries in the region.

v) Providing central assistance to the State Government for development and management of the parks and the sanctuaries.

Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage

671. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of grant sanctioned and paid to the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the actual expenditure incurred by the Trust during these years;

(c) whether report of the working committee of the trust has been submitted to the Government; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed by the Government on the shortcomings pointed out in the report?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) As part of the corpus fund of Rs. 5 crores an amount of Rs. 1 crore each was released in the following two years viz. 1988-89 and 1989-90.

(b) The actual expenditure incurred year-wise

1988-89	Rs. 48,57,769/-
1989-90	Rs. 66,52,863/-
1990-91	Rs. 93,54,240/-

(c) No working committee has been set up.

(d) Question does not arise.

MPs Letters Received by Superintendent of AIIMS

672. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of letters received by the Medical Superintendent of the all India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi from the Members of Parliament during the last six months;

(b) the details of the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the letters of MPs are acknowledged invariably; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (d) The AIIMS have reported that about 97 letters have been received in the office of the Medical Superintendent of the Institute from the Members of Parliament during the last 6 month which mostly pertain to the treatment of the patients at the AIIMS hospital and that prompt action has been taken on all the letters regation consultation land fixing up of appointment/follow up action of the cases of patients referred to the AIIMS hospital.

Pollution by Cement factories

673. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have given instructions to the State Governments to stop pollution in the cement industrial areas; and

(b) the number of units which are taking measures to avoid cement pollution, statewise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS: (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Government in Consultation with the State Governments has directed all heavily polluting industries, including the cement units, to comply with the prescribed effluent and emission standards by 31.12.1991.

(b) according to the information available with government, the number of units, state-wise, which have taken measures to control cement pollution are give below:

S. No.	*State*	*No. of Units*
1	*2*	*3*
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15
2.	Bihar	1
3.	Gujarat	15
4.	Haryana	2
5.	Karnataka	7